



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL

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✧ In Nomine Jesu ✧

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Going to Confession

When memorizing Luther's Small Catechism, catechumens are taught about Confession and the Office of the Keys. Yet in many congregations what is learnt by heart about this Sacrament is never put into practice. In the LCMS church of my childhood private confession and absolution was not talked about outside of confirmation class, and was simply never offered. And it is not as if that particular congregation was strange or out of step with the rest of the parishes of our synod. Not practicing private confession and absolution was the norm for most congregations, and perhaps still is.

By neglecting this precious gift of Christ, the churches have robbed themselves of a great comfort and consolation to the soul. Luther once preached of confession, "I will let no man take private confession away from me, and I would not give it up for all the treasures in the world, since I know what comfort and strength it has given me. No one knows what it can do for him except one who has struggled much with the devil. Yea, the devil would have slain me long ago if the confession had not sustained me."

But what power does confession and absolution have that the other means of grace lack? The power of absolution, or forgiveness, is no different in any of these. Whether public or private, whether received through a sermon or through any one of the Sacraments, the forgiveness of sins is the forgiveness of sins. The power of the Gospel, after all, is rooted in the atoning work of Christ, not in the means by which the effects of His saving work are bestowed. So why does Luther praise and value it so highly?

The distinctive thing about private confession and absolution, is not in its power to forgive, but in its application of that forgiveness. Whereas most of the means of grace are applied to an entire group of people at once, the absolution that follows upon private confession is applied directly to my own sins. And so it is a powerful weapon against doubt. While I may question the corporate absolution I receive in the Divine Service, thinking to myself, "well that forgiveness certainly applies to everyone else here; but it cannot apply to my sins, for I know how severe they are. Everyone else says they are poor and miserable sinners, but none of them sins as often or as severely as I have," I cannot question the private absolution in the same way. Here I know for certain that Christ, through the pastor, is speaking to me, is addressing my sins directly. And miraculously he is saying that they are forgiven in Christ's name! Now when my conscience

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Chapel News and Notes

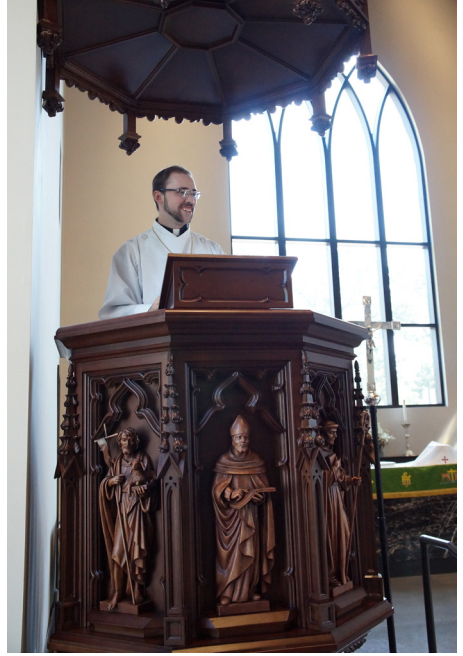
Meet Vicar Habicht

ULC received our third vicar in August: Ian Habicht. Vicar Habicht attends Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. He is from Cass City, Michigan; and, after working as a stone mason for several years, returned to school in order to attend college and then seminary to study for the Holy Ministry.

Since arriving at ULC Vicar has been active in our outreach to students, and learning to preach, teach, do visitations, and conduct the liturgy. He is currently in charge of our Thursday Matins services and of our Friday Bible Study at St. Thomas University.

In his free time, he enjoys gardening/landscaping, camping, fishing and going for walks. Other interests include drawing, creative writing, running, disc golf, playing trombone, guitar and piano, and reading books.

In other vicar news, our former vicar Rod Stewart has gotten engaged to be married this coming August!



And former vicar Sam Smith is pursuing STM studies (the degree beyond the MDiv) at Concordia Theological Seminary.



Pastor Kind spoke at the national LCMS-U conference held this past June in Milwaukee. Pastor also spoke at the Fall Retreat of our sister campus ministry at the University of Wyoming, where ULC alumnus Rev. Mark Preus is campus pastor.



Lifelong ULC member, Nathan Demlow, son of Steve and Barb Demlow, started seminary studies at CTSFW this Fall. He is pictured here (2nd from left) with newly installed seminary President, Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss (far right), who is also a former ULC member.



Ruby Buelow and Dupree Winkelman were confirmed on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels



Evan and Angelique Kessens were wed at ULC in July.

100th Anniversary of Campus Ministry at the U of M in 2025

Save the date now for the 100th Anniversary of our campus ministry at the University of Minnesota. We will hold a special service on the afternoon of September 14, 2025. Former campus pastor, Rev. Prof. John Pless will serve as preacher. Invitations and a full itinerary for the celebration will be forthcoming!

100th Anniversary ULC Cookbook

In our nearly 100-year history, there is no record of a chapel cookbook! Do you have favorite recipes to share? Is there a favorite that you tasted at ULC events and would like the recipe for? We want to know! Simple or complex, meals or treats, food or beverages, help us make this a great cookbook. Please email Stacy Phan at ulccooks@gmail.com to contribute or for more info.

Advent Collection

An opportunity to help the needy: on each Sunday of Advent, there will be a collection area in the Narthex for donations. For the first two Sundays, we will be supporting For Those Without Homes with winter gear. The most in-demand items are gloves, hats, and coats, particularly men's coats. For the second two Sundays, we will be supporting Options East Pregnancy Center in St. Paul with baby items such as diapers, onesies, and other new items.



Craft time at the 2nd annual ULC Ladies' Retreat. Our speaker this year was Rev. Dr. Tom Aadland pastor of St. James Lutheran in East St. Paul.



ULC alumnus, Rev. Brian Thorson, has come back to Minnesota! He was installed as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Annandale in May.



ULC member Jacob Ryan reading one of his poems at our first ever Poetry-Slam event. Students and others competed by writing three original poems and performing them in front of the group. Creativity and hilarity were present in equal measure!



Bowling event at Coffman Memorial Union (above). Vicar showed off his unique technique and surprised everyone with the power of his throws.

Holly Picket (right) was received into confirmed at ULC in after having completed catechesis with Pr. Kind. Holly is a student at Hillsdale College.



This past Christmas ULC had a diaper drive for New Day Pregnancy Center.



Vicar Stewart started a new Bible Study for students at the University of St. Thomas. Last year they studied the book of Mark. This year Vicar Habicht is leading them on a study of the book of Romans



Claire Kulberg, Mike and Heather Pickett & Matt Schraith were received into membership on Sexagesima Sunday in February after having completed Didache Class (adult instruction).



Leah (nee Fastenau) and Ean Schmieder were joined in Holy Matrimony in September.



Vicar Stewart took a group out to the range for a day of shooting. Everyone made it back in one piece!



The U of M held its International Choral Academy concert at our chapel in August, featuring singers and conductors from around the globe.



Elizabeth Schuyler, daughter of David and Sarah, was baptized during the Divine Service on the 7th Sunday After Trinity. Elizabeth's grandfather, Rev. Bill Mielner served as the baptist.



Ean Schmieder was confirmed on the 14th Sunday after Trinity after having completed catechesis with Pr. Kind.



*Palm Sunday Procession around the chapel.
When it is fitting we love bringing the liturgy out into the neighborhood.*



(above) Rev. Harrison Goodman, who works with Higher Things, spoke to our Sunday Bible Study about Youth Ministry, and then enjoyed lunch in Dinkytown with a few of our students and members.

(right) A Halloween costume party was hosted by Evan and Angeliqe Kessens



The Poet's Corner

by Pastor Mark Preus

Lord Jesus, help me bear my cross,
So that when I must suffer loss,
I find my hope secure in Thee,
Who promise life eternally.

The weight is heavy! Where shall I
Find help unless Thy cross is nigh
To take the burden of my guilt,
With blood Thine innocence once spilt?

Thou hast delivered once for all
The faith that bids me on Thee call
For comfort in adversity,
For joy that only comes from Thee.

In all the world no rest is found,
Her futile pleasures prince around,
But soon to pain and death are turned,
As fruitless branches must be burned.

So grant me patience I don't have,
And let me rest in Thy blest grave
To find my Sabbath in Thy death,
And know Thy resurrection's breath.

Dear Christ, one day I shall arise
And see Thy glory in the skies,
The only cross that will remain
Is Thine that takes away my pain.

Until that day, let me endure,
And find within Thy wounds the cure
For every ailment of my heart
That clings to grace Thy words impart. ☩



ULC alumnus Jesse Greenhagen was ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry in August. Jesse was called to Zion Lutheran Church in Mount Pleasant Michigan and is now the campus pastor for Western Michigan University. Pastor Kind served as preacher for his ordination.

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rises up against me, or when Satan accuses me, or even when a fellow Christian points out my sins, I can say, “These are no longer mine. They have been absolved by Christ through my pastor. Leave me in peace. I am forgiven and I am free!” This is why Luther, in the same sermon, went on to say, “if any one wrestles with his sins, is eager to be rid of them and looks for some assurance from the Scriptures, let him go and confess [to the pastor] in secret, and receive what is said to him there as if it came directly from God’s own lips.”

I am so happy to be able to say that the use of this wonderful gift of Christ is on the rise at ULC. While private confession and absolution has been offered at the chapel for decades, it seems to me that this year more than ever before, students and others are seeking their pastor out to hear their confession of sins and to pronounce the Holy Absolution. More than that even, several are now making going to confession part of their regular routine. What better way to fight the power of one’s sins than to have those sins driven away by Jesus? What a precious gift it is to a troubled heart to hear the words, “I forgive you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”

And so I encourage you too to make use of this powerful gift. You learned about long ago from your catechism, so why not put it to use? Put aside your fears. Seek out your pastor, and say to him, “Dear pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God’s will.” You will be glad you did. ☒



Joel Dodd was confirmed in February. Joel is a student at Concordia University and a member of the Army Reserve.



Kyle Berg was confirmed on the Last Sunday of the Church Year. Kyle is a student at the U of M.



The ULC choir practicing in the choir loft. Our choir adds such beauty to worship at the chapel.



*A trio of baptisms took place at the Divine Service on 16th Sunday After Trinity!
Ingrid Bratrud (daughter of Moses & Brianna), Simon Davis (son of Nick & Ashley),
and Levi Hynes (son of Joey & Amber) all received new birth and life together in Christ.*



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316 10TH AVENUE SE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

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